

MAPS OF INDIANA ISSUED IN THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL SERIAL SET

by Lou Malcomb,
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
&
Mardi Mahaffy,
Oklahoma's East Central University



The

Island of Lost Maps, a popular little book written by Miles Harvey, recently came to the attention of many librarians and the public at large on the value of rare maps. Its author explores the theft of historical maps from some of the world's most famous libraries. Looking at some of the titles described by Harvey, most "documents" librarians would recognize that some of the titles were originally published by the U.S. government in House and Senate Documents and compiled into the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, hereafter referred to as the *Serial Set*.

Many descriptions are available about the extensive historical information published within House and

Senate reports and documents that are bound into the *Serial Set*. Joe Morehead refers to the various names given to the Serial Set "including the serial number set, congressional edition, congressional set, congressional series, and sheep or sheep-bound set (owing to its distinctive sheepskin binding)." The Government Printing Office provides a brief description with a history at its *GPO Access* entitled "*U.S. Congressional Serial Set: What it is and its History*". (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/sset.html) While dated, Laurence F. Schmeckebier and Roy B. Eastin provide a thorough overview of House and Senate reports and documents, the *Serial Set* and various historical indexes.

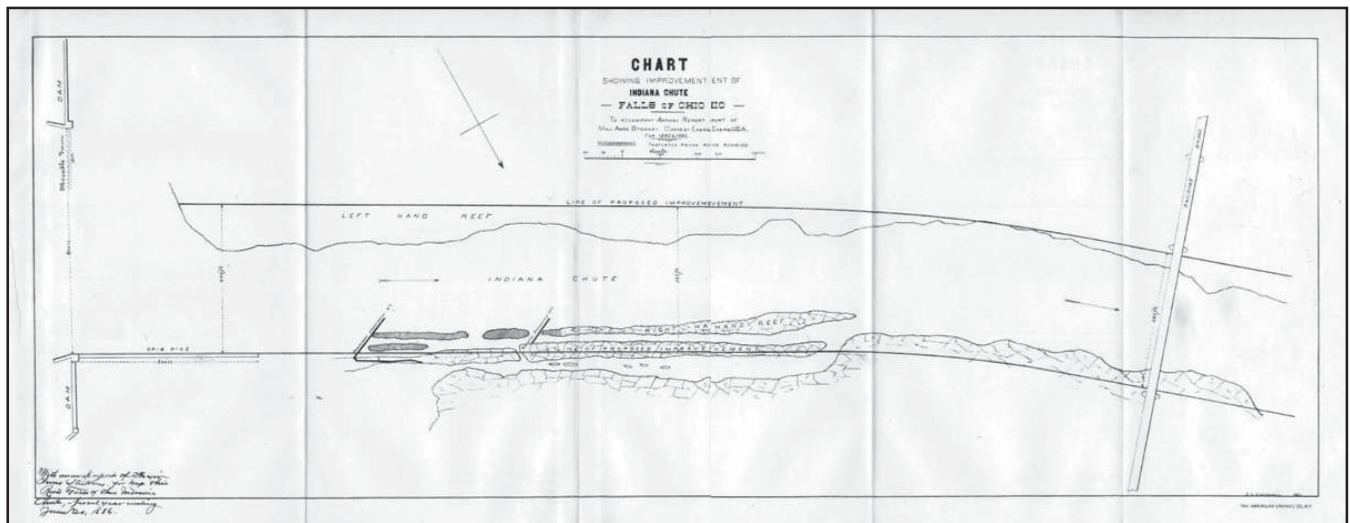


ILLUSTRATION 1.

Chart showing improvement of Indiana Chute, Falls of Ohio

Producer: The American Graphic Co. NY Imprint: NY: American Graphic Co.. 1886 Scale: 1:2,000
Call No.: Y1.1/2: 2464 (49-2) House Ex. Doc 1, map 12

Note: Size: 19 x 53cm. Major Amos Stickney, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.; C.L. Cornwell, del; The American Graphic Company, N.Y. Shows a number of improvements made on the Ohio River along the Indiana Chute, including dams, crib dikes, breakwaters and rock excavations, width of channel indicated at various points.

While perhaps not as valuable as Harvey describes, maps of Indiana's past can be used to illustrate the development, both in human terms as well as physical, of our state and our communities. Numerous historical maps remain hidden because they have been published as attachments to government documents or research studies. Maps issued within U.S. Congressional documents provide valuable clues to the geographical, social, and physiological study of the state of Indiana. As well agencies of the state of Indiana often published maps of the state and counties in annual reports, which for many years were compiled into the *Yearbook of Indiana*. This article will explore the existence of these maps.

Until recently, locating cartographic information, published as attachments to House and Senate reports and documents within the Serial Set, was difficult. The *U.S. Congressional Serial Set Index*, published by the Congressional Information Service, originally only covered textual materials. However, during the late 1990's, three parts were added to this index that provide access to the maps in the *Serial Set*. As the

Editor's Introduction notes, the project to index and list the maps contained in the *Serial Set* began in 1984 but was not completed until the mid-1990's. It is an invaluable research tool that historians and genealogists will treasure, but geologists, geographers, and environmentalists should also take note. Using this tool and the *Serial Set* volumes available at the Indiana University Libraries in Bloomington, we have identified the maps that focus on areas within, or that encompass, the state of Indiana. The maps cover virtually every aspect of life, from territorial boundaries, to oil and gas fields. There are glacial maps of the Illinois Ice Lobe. There are harbor maps and political boundary maps. Some examples follow. The recent establishment of the Falls of the Ohio State Park might have students interested in the historical improvements of the Indiana Chute during the 1880's and 1890's.

Of course the original survey and triangulation of the state remains important because of its use in establishing boundary lines for land sales and township/county boundaries.

Place Illustration 2

ILLUSTRATION 2.

"Territory Northwest of the Ohio" divided and the western part organized as "Indiana Territory".

Imprint: 1800.

Call Number: Y1.1/2: 4478 (57-2 House Document 15, Map 5)

Notes: Map of the United States showing the organization of the territory of Indiana.

The 1911 "Map showing Calumet River District, Illinois and Indiana" gives the city grids, harbors, railroads and lakes in Cook County, Illinois and Lake County, Indiana.

ILLUSTRATION 3 (EXCERPTS OF MAP 2)

Map showing Calumet River District, Illinois and Indiana

Producer: U.S. Engineers Office

Imprint: 1911

Scale: 1:42,300

Call No.: GPD Y1.1/2: 6209 (62-2) House Doc 690, map 2

Note: Map shows city grids, public land grid, harbors, railroads, lakes and rivers in Cook County, Illinois and Lake County, Indiana. "Map E".

A complete list of maps concerning Indiana, as indexed in the *US Serial Set Index: Index and Carto-Bibliography of Maps*, is available at <http://www.indiana.edu/~libgm/inserialsetmaps.html>. The research for this website was partially funded from an Indiana Heritage Research Grant with funds provided by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council and a grant from the Indiana University Librarians Association in 1999.

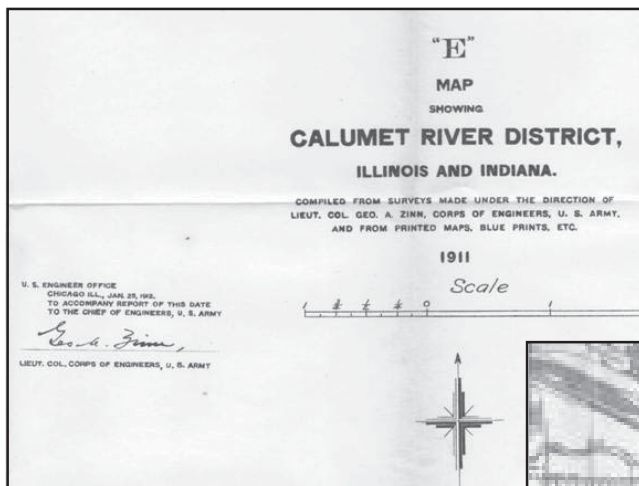
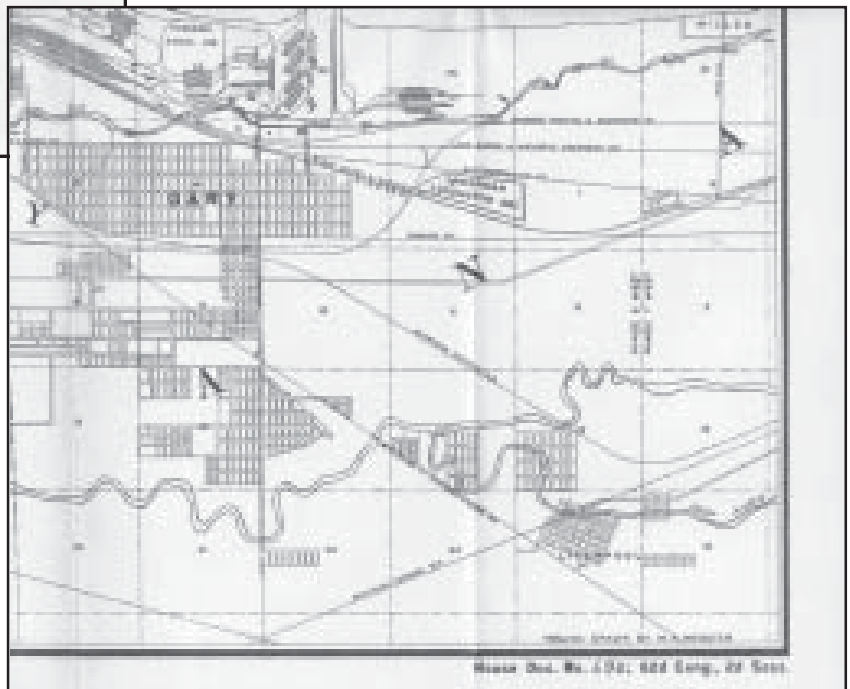


ILLUSTRATION 3.

Excerpts from "E" Map showing Calumet River District, Illinois and Indiana. U.S. Congress. House Document 690, 62nd Congress, 2nd Session (6209), 1911.



Similar in many respects to the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, the state of Indiana published the *Yearbook of Indiana* from 1917 through 1950, compiling the annual reports of the major agencies of the state. While most of these documents are narrative, with few illustrations or charts, some years and some agencies included maps, statistical tables and charts of great value. An example of their value can be illustrated with a reference question that led us to locate state highway maps as first issued by the Indiana Highway Department (now the Indiana Department of Transportation): "In what year did the state of Indiana first utilize numbers on its state highways?"

ILLUSTRATION 4 (COMPOSITE OF 1917 AND 1930).

The maps above illustrate that in 1917 roads were not numbered, but by 1930 they were, narrowing the gap for the researcher. We will leave it to the curious to explore this question further since our purpose here is to point out the existence of these maps within the various reports. While the Institute for Public Administration published an index to these reports in 1970, it does not list maps or other illustrations.

Indiana maps published before 1900 can be identified within the Indiana volume of the *Checklist of printed maps of the Middle West to 1900*, but no comprehensive list exists for maps published during the twentieth century. Rare historical maps of Indiana exist in many collections within our libraries. We encourage librarians to take note of them, see to their preservation, and consider their value for research.

Baron, Marcy. *Index to Yearbook of the State of Indiana, 1917-1950: citing information relating to political subdivisions of the state*. (1970). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, Institute of Public Administration.

CIS US Serial Set Index. (1975-1997). Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service.

Harvey, Miles. (2001). *The Island of Lost Maps : a true story of cartographic crime*.

Thorndike, Me.: GK Hall.

Index and Carto-bibliography of maps. (1997). Washington, DC: Congressional Information Service.

Karrow, Robert W. Jr. (Editor) (1981). *Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900*. Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1981.

Morehead, Joe. (1999). *Introduction to United States Government Information Sources*. Englewood, CO.: Libraries Unlimited.

Schmeckebier, Laurence F. and Roy B. Eastin. (1969). *Government Publications and their use*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.

Yearbook of the State of Indiana for the year. (1918-1951). Indianapolis, IN: Wm. B. Burford.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Lou Malcomb is Head of Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services and Geography and Map Library at Indiana University—Bloomington.

Mardi Mahaffy is Government Documents Librarian at Oklahoma's East Central University.

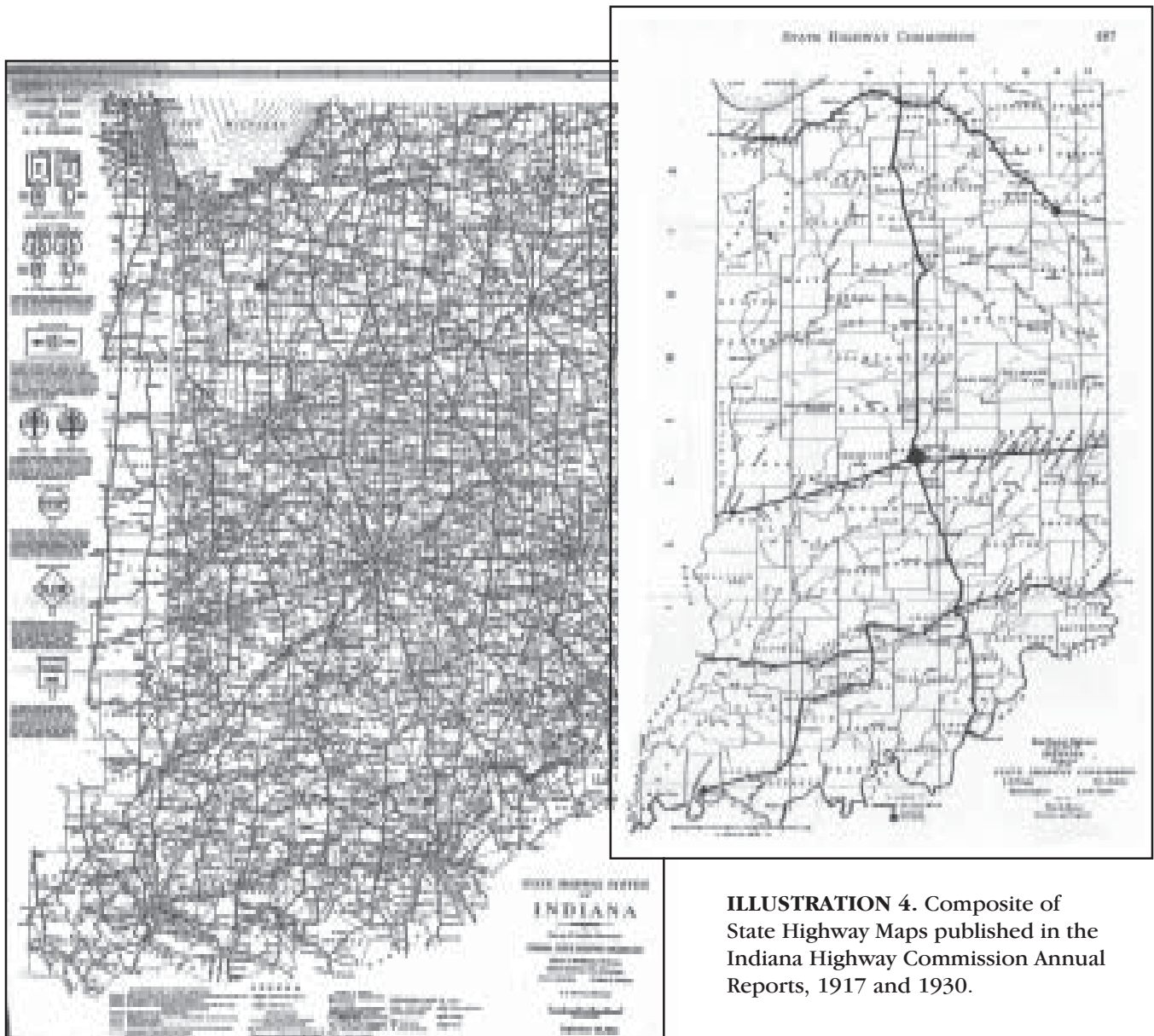


ILLUSTRATION 4. Composite of State Highway Maps published in the Indiana Highway Commission Annual Reports, 1917 and 1930.